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SECRET

11 June 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Latin American Branch, CRS

VIA: Deputy Assistant Director for CRS

SUBJECT: Central Intelligence Group Intelligence Report on "Propaganda of anti-American Tendencies"

1. The subject report, in the opinion of this branch, raises questions of a serious nature with regard to a) the division of labor between CRS and CO, and b) CRS's general responsibility for standards of excellence in US intelligence reporting.

2. The report does not do what it purports to do. Its nominal subject is "Propaganda of anti-American Tendencies", and the section on Argentina begins with the words: "Argentine propaganda and radio broadcasts". Actually, the contents of the report would have called for some such title as "Examples of anti-US Sentiment Expressed in Argentine Radio Broadcasts". The word "propaganda" suggests, at the very least, planned inculcation of themes centrally determined upon, presumably by a government agency. Obviously, in this context, the word "propaganda" would be justified only after a careful distinction were made, for purposes of analysis, between government-sponsored or government-controlled broadcasts and privately-sponsored or - controlled broadcasts. No such distinction is made in the report. If Argentine intelligence were to prepare a report on "Propaganda of anti-Argentine Tendencies in the US", citing a random selection of commentaries and newscasts from a half-dozen US radio transmitters, without regard to the ownership or control of these transmitters, this would constitute an analogy to the subject report. Of course, if all radio broadcasts originating in the countries dealt with are government-controlled, there would be no objection to the procedure adopted. In any case, this is not the situation in the countries dealt with.

3. The report does not do well even that which it does. For the purposes of such a report, a rigorous definition of "anti-American tendencies" would be necessary, and the analysis should look to an estimate of the quantitative importance of broadcasts of "anti-American tendencies". If, for example, the alleged anti-US broadcasts included in the section "Argentina" were, as the report offers no proof that they are not, mere isolated instances of irresponsible radio commentating, the impact of the report upon any readers's mind would be misleading in the extreme. It is not suggested here that these are isolated instances, but rather simply that the report should itself show to what extent they are representative of the total out-

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put of Argentine radio stations.

4. The report contains a great deal of interpretation, much of it highly tendentious in character, which purely aside from its tendentiousness has no place in a report originating outside ORE. Examples are: the statement that Argentine "Propaganda" (see 2. above) pays "lip service to democracy as we interpret it", a form of words which expresses a judgment by the author of the report upon the sincerity of Argentina's pretensions to democracy. The reference, in the same sentence, to the Argentine Government's having "removed from its Supreme Court judges whose decisions are not in accord with the Peronist conception of democracy", a form of words which overlooks the fact that impeachment of Supreme Court justices is specifically provided for in the Argentine Constitution, as in our own, that the merits of the case against the recently impeached justices in Argentina constitutes a matter of great complexity whose analysis is, in CIG, a responsibility of ORE, and, finally, that the removal of the justices in question was determined upon not by the Argentine Government but by the legislative body specifically assigned this responsibility in the Argentine Constitution. The reference to the so-called "'Hispanic' bond" among the Latin American nations, resting as it apparently does on the assumption that any emphasis upon such a bond among the Latin American nations is inherently anti-US in tendency. The emphasis upon a public appearance of Vittorio Mussolini and to the "fanfare of welcome" which, "according to broadcasts", he received, attributes to this event an importance far beyond its maximum deserts, and indicates rather a determination on the part of the author of the report to make things in Argentina look as disagreeable as possible than a wish to place useful intelligence at the disposal of US intelligence agencies.

5. The use of vague quantitative terms like "considerable anti-American sentiment expressed over the Chilean radios" and "a good deal of material of an anti-United States character" (in Venezuelan radio broadcasts) involves a pretension to quantitative analysis which the evidence cited does not support.

RECOMMENDED:

a. That analysis projects of this character be discussed in future with ORE before they are undertaken.

b. That steps be taken to call to CO's attention the existing division of labors within CIG, which if the undersigned understands it correctly assigns to ORE complete responsibility for interpretive analysis.

/s/ [redacted] 25X1A9a
Chief
Latin American Branch

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